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On 15 October 1951, Phan Anh, Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) Minister of Economy, read a report on the food situation in North Vietnam to the North Vietnam Food Conference, in which he called for the additional production of 300,000 tons of food before May 1952. His report is summarized as follows:

a. According to statistics compiled in late August 1951, after the autumn harvest, less than 900,000 tons of food were then stored in North Vietnam.

b. The DRV requires 150,000-180,000 tons of food monthly to meet military and civilian needs. The amount then stored would probably last only until mid-February 1952.

c. In order to avert famine among the 8,500,000 people in North Vietnam, the DRV must have a reserve of about 500,000 tons of food for the period between mid-February and mid-May when newly-harvested grain becomes available.

d. Approximately 160,000 tons of food could be produced between October and mid-February, including 70,000 tons of sweet potatoes, 65,000 tons of corn and about 25,000 tons of soya beans. This would leave a deficit approximately twice as great as this figure.

e. It is impossible to ship food from South Vietnam to meet the needs of the north. Central Vietnam will also have to increase its production in order to meet its own requirements. Therefore, both troops and civilians will have to engage in productive activities during the coming winter in order to produce an additional 300,000 tons of miscellaneous grains before mid-March 1952.

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